

***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

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DE WTE #1680 097045Z
D 070452Z APR 74
FM THE SITUATION ROOM/ATOSCO 17//

TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD WH40931

TDSCD 17

APRIL 7, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

MORI/CDF
C03318975

ISRAEL-SYRIA

State Dept. review completed

ISRAEL USED AIRCRAFT AGAINST INFILTRATING SYRIAN TROOPS ON THE GOLAN FRONT TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE. THE ISRAELIS REPORT THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO DISLodge THE SYRIANS WITH ARTILLERY FIRE AND HAD TO CALL IN AIR SUPPORT WHICH SUCCEEDED IN DRIVING THE SYRIANS BACK. OF AT LEAST 70 SORTIES OVER THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND LEBANON, SOME PROBABLY ALSO PROVIDED DEFENSIVE COVER FOR RECONNAISSANCE AS WELL AS FOR GROUND-ATTACK AIRCRAFT.

THE US INTERESTS SECTION IN DAMASCUS REPORTS THAT THE CITY WAS SHAKEN BY SEVERAL EXPLOSIONS OF VARYING INTENSITY THIS MORNING. THE SECTION QUOTES A SYRIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT ISRAELI FORCES ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS HAD USED "SEVERAL SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES" TODAY AND THAT SYRIAN FORCES HAD RESPONDED IN KIND. THE MISSILES REFERRED TO PROBABLY ARE UNGUIDED, HIGH-EXPLOSIVE ROCKETS FIRED FROM MULTIROCKET LAUNCHERS WHICH ARE IN BOTH ISRAEL'S AND SYRIA'S INVENTORIES.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

CAMBODIA

THE US AMBASSADOR IN PHNOM PENH REPORTS THAT MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THE IMPROVED SITUATION AT KAMPOT SHOULD GO TO KHMER AIR FORCE, WHOSE CAPABILITIES HAVE SLOWLY BUT STEADILY INCREASED

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

MC FARLANE, SEC FILE

PSN:002899

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SINCE THE US BOMBING HALT LAST AUGUST. THE AIR FORCE, USING ALL TYPES OF ITS TACTICAL AIRCRAFT, FLEW ABOUT 50 SORTIES IN CLOSE SUPPORT OF KAMPOT'S DEFENDERS ON APRIL 4. THE AIR OPERATIONS WERE STAGED FROM PHNOM PENH AND FROM THE NAVAL BASE AT REAM UNDER SOME UNFAVORABLE WEATHER CONDITIONS. THE OPERATIONS INVOLVED AN UNUSUALLY EFFECTIVE BLEND OF CAMBODIAN LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION.

PHNOM PENH'S TEACHERS, WHO HAVE SPENT LITTLE TIME IN THEIR CLASSROOMS SINCE JANUARY WHEN THEY BEGAN AGITATING FOR HIGHER WAGES, AGREED DURING A TEACHERS' CONGRESS THIS WEEK TO STAY ON THE JOB FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. THEY DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOURS IN THEIR BASIC WORK WEEK.

USSR-WEST GERMANY

THE SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN BONN HAS "INFORMALLY AND PERSONALLY" PROPOSED A SOLUTION TO THE IMPASSE OVER THE PLANNED WEST GERMAN ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE IN BERLIN. THE EMBASSY IN BONN FEELS THAT HIS COMMENTS MAY FORESHADOW A SIMILAR APPROACH BY GROMYKO DURING THE PRIVATE TALKS AT THE UN THIS WEEK. IN ESSENCE, MOSCOW WOULD ACCEPT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY IN RETURN FOR AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE WEST GERMANS WOULD NOT FURTHER INCREASE THEIR PRESENCE IN BERLIN. MEANWHILE, THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY STRENGTHENING THEIR OWN PRESENCE THERE.

LIBYA

LATEST REPORTS FROM TRIPOLI INDICATE THAT QADHAFI REMAINS LIBYA'S UNDISPUTED STRONGMAN. ACCORDING TO ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, QADHAFI HAS LIMITED HIS ROLE TO SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THAT OF MAO TSE-TUNG. SUCH FUNCTIONS AS GREETING HEADS-OF-STATE AT AIRPORTS AND RECEIVING AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS WILL NOW BE HANDLED BY PREMIER JALLUD. REPORTEDLY, THE LIBYAN DECREE OUTLINING THE CHANGES IN QADHAFI'S DUTIES DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OUSTER.

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